

- sources going dry or lowering of the ground water table
- sources becoming quality affected
- systems outliving their lives
- systems working below rates capacity due to poor operation and maintenance
- increase in population resulting into lower per capita availability, emergence of new habitations

The Habitation Survey 2003 data reveals high incidence of slippage. The State Governments have been asked for taking coordinated approach for sustainability of water supply sources and systems.

(c) and (d) A community based National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme has been launched in the country to tackle chemical contamination, which aims at testing various parameters for all drinking water sources by the grassroot level works in each Panchayat by simple-to-use field test kits. One Field test kit would be provided to each Gram Panchayat in the country for this purpose. The positively tested samples would then be tested at the District/State level laboratories. However, with effect from 1st April, 2006, it has been decided to retain upto 20% of ARWSP funds to mitigate water quality problems on focused manner.

(e) Drinking Water Supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman which has been conceived as a plan to be implemented in four years, from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure. The objective of the said component is to cover 55067 uncovered habitations as well as to address problem of slipped back and quality affected habitations.

Role of village Panchayats in NREGP

2380. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to involve/and to enhance the role of village Panchayats in the identification of beneficiaries and implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) In accordance with Section 13(1) of NREG Act 2005, the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village level are the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the Schemes made under the Act. Village Panchayats have been assigned a pivotal role in the implementation process. They are responsible for planning of works, registering households, issuing job cards, allocating employment, executing 50% of the works and monitoring the implementation of the scheme at the village level.

(c) Does not arise.

Payment due under SGRY

†2381. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 70.40 crore has not been paid to workers due to reduction in original allotment of 1,48,158 metric tonnes of wheat by Government under Sampurna Grameen Rojgar Yojana, during the year 2005;

(b) the reasons for not releasing the said amount, so far; and

(c) by when the said amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) In 2005-2006, due to limited availability of foodgrains, the allocation of foodgrains was restricted to 37.30 lakh MT as against the original allocation of 50 lakh MT under Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY). The States/UTs were instructed to provide 3 kg. as against 5 kg per manday as part of wages to workers with effect from 1.11.2005 to 31.3.2006. The reduced norms from 5 kg to 3 kg per manday is applicable in 2006-2007 also. The States/UTs have been instructed to ensure timely payment of wages to workers under SGRY. As per instructions issued by this Ministry, in case of non-availability/inadequate availability of foodgrains, wages can be paid in cash.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.